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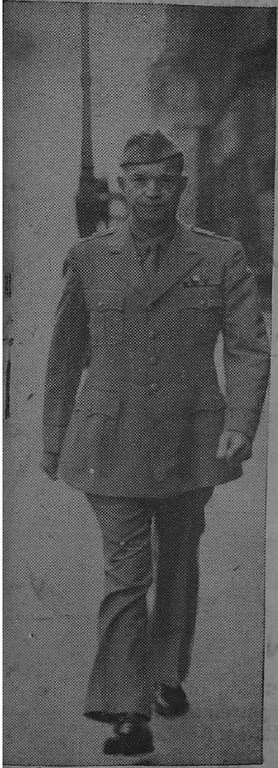
MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1943 No. 31

FIRED BY A COMMON PURPOSE



GENERAL EISENHOWER

MANY of the soldiers of the British First Army have been in action almost since the first day of their landing in North Africa. They have gone through the hardships of winter in the mountains, and come out of it full of high spirits and determination

IN the early days, we threw every American available into line to help the British First Army. These American units have all been regrouped and are fighting as one entity under General Alexander

BRITISH American and French forces in this area, fired by the common purpose of crushing the enemy, are working in complete harmony and unision not only for immediate victory on this front, but for the eventual and complete defeat of all our enemies

GENERAL EISENHOWER, addressing war correspondents at Mareth Front, on April 3

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Have you a Camera?

A NEW PRIZE COMPETITION

TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES EXTENDED

There are many Madrasis now on active Military service, earning good pay from which they are saving money to spend after the war. It is important for the welfare of the soldier and his family that these savings should be usefully and productively spent, for instance, in rural reconstruction and post-war development schemes.

Our Sepoys want to know what they can best spend their money on, and we propose to show them.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!

The Editor wants photos of—**(1) A well being sunk, (2) A finished well in use, (3) Terracing of fields, (4) Fruit topes, (5) Vegetable gardens, (6) A small shop, (7) Poultry keeping, (8) Improved cattle, (9) House-building, (10) A wedding, (11) Any other subject which you consider that a Sepoy might like to spend money on.**

A first prize of Rs. 20 and a second prize of Rs. 10 will be given for the best photographs submitted. Prizes of Rs. 3 will be given for the best photos in each of the above groups.

The Editor reserves the right to withhold prizes in any group in which the required standards of quality are not satisfied.

No photos can be returned to senders.

At the request of some intending competitors, the time for submission of entries has been extended to 15th April 1943.

All entries must reach

THE EDITOR, MADRAS WAR REVIEW,
VICTORY HOUSE,
MADRAS,

before that date.

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R.A.F.—INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION

Indian generosity has helped considerably the war-time expansion of the R.A.F. More than £ 4,000,000 has been contributed for the purchase of fighter and bomber planes. The people of Burma have contributed a further £ 290,000. Among the squadrons financed by India and Burma are: Three "Madras" fighter squadrons; one "Madras Presidency" bomber squadron; one "City of Bombay" fighter squadron; three "East India" fighter squadrons; one "United Provinces" fighter squadron; two "Punjab" fighter squadrons; two "Hyderabad" fighter squadrons; one "Hyderabad" bomber squadron; one "Mysore" fighter squadron; one "Baroda" fighter squadron; one "Burma" fighter squadron and one "Burma" bomber squadron.

The achievements of some of these squadrons are recounted in an illustrated pamphlet "Wings of Empire" recently published by the Ministry of Information in London.

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Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

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Japan's "Pressing Problem": Maintenance of Food Supply.

A *Reuter* message from Sydney published in last Sunday's papers refers to the failure of Japan to get oil which was her most urgent reason for attacking the Netherlands East Indies. It says that authoritative reports received in Sydney convincingly show that the Dutch "scorched earth" policy was both quick and thorough. According to experts who know the oil-fields and how they were scorched, some of the many oil-wells in Tarakan, Sarasanga and Ceram may be producing oil, but their output would be only a minute fraction of the pre-war annual output of 8,000,000 tons in the Netherlands East Indies. The Japanese claim of having completely restored the Balik Papan refinery is, therefore, a blatant falsehood.

Japan is experiencing considerable difficulty not only in regard to oil, but also in regard to her own food position. This is clear from a speech made by ISHII EINOSUKO, Head of the Japanese Agricultural Department, at a Round Table Conference held in December 1942:

> "The maintenance of the food supply," he says, "is a pressing problem."

According to him, Japan produced annually 64 million koku of rice (1 koku is about five bushels) before the China War began, and Korea and Formosa supplied 10 million koku. The present demand for rice, according to figures published by the Japanese Food Department, is about 79 million koku. It is clear that Japan is not able to obtain the rice she needs from her own resources. Mr. EINOSUKO has also revealed the fact that imports from Korea have not been coming because of a series of droughts there. To make matters worse, Japan herself was able to produce only 59 million koku in 1941. What is the remedy for such a state of affairs? Mr. EINOSUKO says:

> "In view of these conditions, next year's rice prospects are fairly serious. Therefore, the practical problem is how we can depend on rice from the Southern Regions."

Japan's policy of exploitation of the occupied countries is further evident from an indirect commentary from Bangkok. In a broadcast on March 17, it said, among other things:

> "We have not enough rice to eat, nor bread, but what of it?"

Japan will no doubt try her utmost to exploit to the full all the resources she

(*Continued on page 6*)

Tunisia: A Study

IN our last commentary on the Battle of Tunisia we stated that the main battle would no doubt be the one for Gabes but that before it came much hard fighting might lie ahead. We also referred to Mr. Churchill's statement that he did not wish that hopes of easy decision should be encouraged. But the fall of Gabes came much sooner than was expected, because Rommel was afraid that his line of retreat to join General von Arnim's forces would be cut by the Allies. The British are now pushing forward along the Sezenane-Mateur close on Rommel's heels. Air attacks on enemy planes and ships are continuing, and the advance of the Allies on land is being maintained. It may be stated that this great Battle of Tunisia will serve as a working model of modern warfare, in almost all its aspects, for study in the years to come at military staff colleges. It would be a fascinating, though complicated, subject, for there are two different plans working in juxtaposition, and a number of factors on each side, each of which having its own complexities.

FIRSTLY, the Allied plan is to invade Southern Europe by two armies converging across Africa from Egypt and the Atlantic. Secondly, there is the German plan to drive a spearhead between the two Allied armies with a view to impeding and delaying the invasion of Europe when Germany is involved in a major crisis in Russia.

THE part played by the air arm as an integral part of the military machine is one of the salient features of the Tunisian campaign. The Allied aircraft have been giving close support to General Montgomery's forces and functioning something like flying tanks. The work of the field artillery is supplemented by a barrage from the air and the enemy's lines of communication on land and sea are progressively weakened.

Three-cornered Trap

VERY soon Rommel's forces would be fighting with their backs to the sea, and they will be faced with bombardment from the air from three directions at the same time. The enemy will be caught in a trap as it were, and Allied aircraft from Algeria in the west, Malta in the north, and the Desert in the south will bring about an unprecedented concentration of air fire. What will the enemy do ? Will he weaken his air defences in Europe in an effort to break the Allied concentration ? Let us wait and see.

ANOTHER important factor in the Tunisian war is the organization and maintenance of the supply services. Three different supply services are working to feed (1) the Anglo-American forces in Algeria, (2) the Eighth Army and (3) the Germans. Though each is independent of the other, they are all exerting a vital influence on the campaign. The most instructive of these services is perhaps the German one, because it furnishes a working demonstration of how an army can be maintained across a narrow stretch of sea by supply from land, sea and air.

May make a stand at Sousse

AS regards the campaign itself, in the north, the First Army captured Cape Serrat and is advancing east without meeting much resistance. In the south, the success of the Mareth Battle and the occupation of Gabes have forced things to an issue, from which Rommel is fleeing. The question is whether Rommel will be having sufficient time during the present interval to reorganize his position. But this is not considered likely. It is expected that a stand will be made by the Axis forces somewhere in the neighbourhood of Sousse.

in Strategy

THE storming of the formidable Mareth fortifications which was held by the enemy in great strength was in itself a very great achievement, for the Germans regarded the defence of these positions as of vital importance to the whole of their defensive strategy in Tunisia. That is why they concentrated such a heavy weight of their armour against General Montgomery's troops. Temporarily they were able to check the Eighth Army for the first time since its great victory at El Alamein, and give it a setback after its five months of continuous and brilliant operations, but this was quickly got over by the success of the outflanking movement of the strongly armoured British column, which captured El Hamma and Gabes.

Rommel Conscious of Danger

THERE is now only a very short distance between the Americans to the east of El Guettar and the British in the El Hamma area. Rommel must no doubt be conscious of the danger from both the forces, and he may bring into action the strategic reserve of panzer formations to protect his rear against this two-faced danger. Rommel may also be expected to cut across the line of the American and French advance to the east of Gafsa. It was thought probable that a strong Axis force would be brought up to protect the approaches to the coast between Gabes and Sfax, but this did not happen, and El Guettar, Saned, Maknassy and Fondouk have all been captured by the Allies.

HITHERTO the Germans have been playing for time. Their attempts to disrupt Allied communication lines in the northern and central sectors have gained for them several valuable months. The existence of the Mareth line was a very great help to them, and Rommel was able to force a lull for a time on General Montgomery. But this only helped the Eighth Army to pause, concentrate its hitting power, and reorganize its supply system.

Awkward Corner

WHEN Rommel began the attack on the Eighth Army from the Mareth Line, he was too late, for by that time General Montgomery was ready to repel the attack, and what was more, follow it through. It is no doubt true that the Afrika Korps is in an awkward corner on account of General Montgomery's outflanking movement, but it cannot be stated as yet that the enemy's position is desperate.

THE aim of Allied strategy now is a total destruction of the Afrika Korps where it now stands, or at least maul it as badly as possible before it succeeds in escaping northwards. The aim of German strategy, on the other hand, is to extricate their forces and retreat to the north with as little loss as possible.

Fight to the Finish at Tunis

THE final battle of the Tunisian campaign will be fought in front of Tunis and Bizerta. It will be a fight to the finish. It may turn out to be a second Stalingrad, or another Dunkirk. General Giraud said after visiting Gabes, "The Axis will have to 'do Dunkirk' from Africa. There will be lots of white caps floating in the Mediterranean sooner."

EVERYTHING points to the fact that this forecast is likely to come true.

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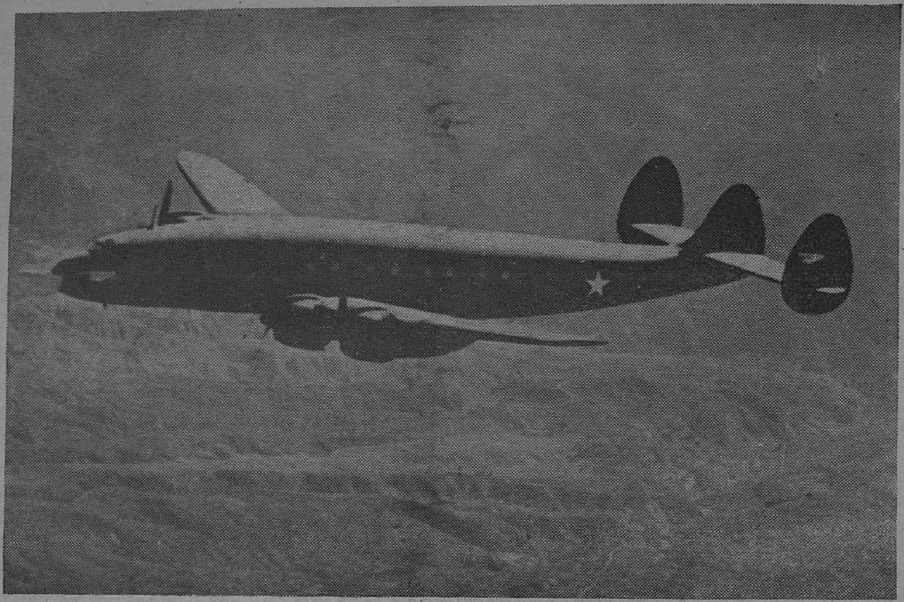


THE "CONSTELLATION" TAKES TO THE AIR—The World's fastest transport and the largest plane in production, the Constellation, *flies above mountains on her maiden flight on the U.S. West Coast. The plane can fly 57 passengers and crew across the Atlantic in ten hours, cruising at an altitude of 20,000 feet.*

—U.S. Office of War Information Photo.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3)

can lay hands on in the occupied countries, but there is one big difficulty—the problem of shipping. Mr. EINOSUKO says:

"There is a shortage of ships and the matter of transport does not permit of optimism. Accordingly, we must somehow or other make it our aim to increase the self-sufficiency of Japan."

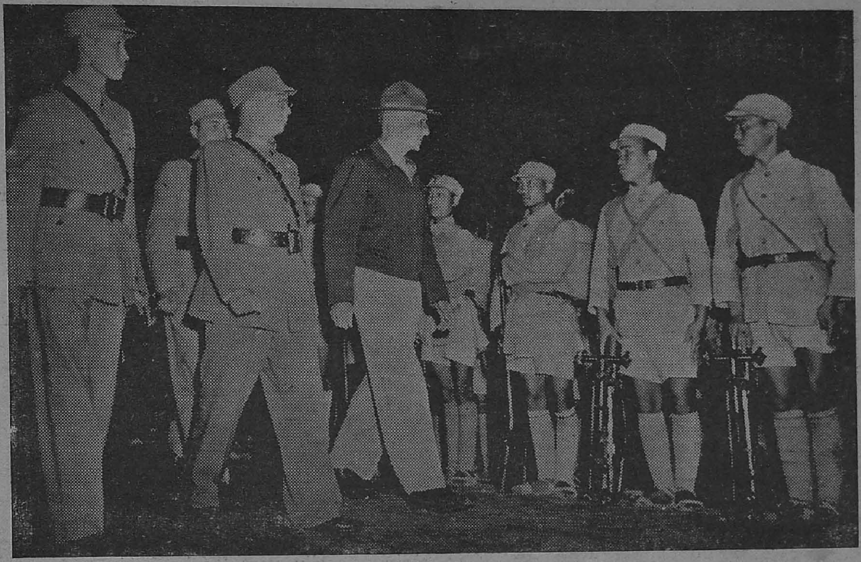
A Japanese shipping expert had expressed the opinion in November 1942 that the needs of the Co-prosperity sphere could not be met by Japan's peace-time merchant shipping. A *Domei* message of February 8, says:

"The Japanese merchant marine is being maintained at substantially the same level as at the outbreak of the war."

Ironically enough, this message was broadcast to Rome to show the "strength" of Japan's present shipping position! The situation being what it is, Japan has to take steps to increase her rice production. It seems there is a scheme to raise the production level to 80 million koku. This, however, is not an easy task. There are a number of difficulties in the way. Japan has to solve important agrarian problems before she can hope to realize her objective. Mr. EINOSUKO says:

"There will be land reform. Farmers will be made to co-operate earnestly. Paddy fields incapable of second crop will be made to yield. Farmers have endured many inconveniences economically, they will turn their mulberry and fruit orchards to grain-producing land. The maintenance of the food supply is the key to winning the war."

It is a well-known fact that Japan's standard of life is abnormally low. And now this has to be further lowered to satisfy the ambitions of the war-lords of Japan. But the industrious peasantry may not have the incentives for further effort. This is perhaps the reason why Premier TOJO wants a speedy conclusion of the war. It may be recalled that he stated publicly, quite recently, that the war "must end in a year's time." This may not be so easy, for the Allies have a different aim. As General SMUTS declared, the aim of the war in the East is the establishment of "Japan for the Japanese," not Asia for the Japanese. This means that the war may extend beyond the time fixed by TOJO.



GENERAL STILWELL INSPECTS CHINESE TROOPS IN INDIA.—Lieut.-Genl. Joseph W. Stilwell (centre), Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and Commanding-General of American Forces in China and Burma, inspects Chinese troops in India. He is accompanied by Generals Sun Li-zen and Lo Cho-ying, the Commanding-General and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese Expeditionary Forces.

For An Idle Hour

By Sir ROBERT DENNISTON

WHEN I was very young, and the misery of a wet day led me to ask "What shall I do," my father, who did not include the virtue of patience amongst other estimable qualities, used to say gruffly "take a book and read." As an antidote to a restless child's boredom this was not always efficacious, but it has induced in later life the habit of dipping into a book at odd times, and has created a fondness for reading which increases with the years. I sometimes wonder what we should do if there were no books, and how we should occupy our leisure moments, and I have always been intrigued by that rather hackneyed problem "If you were wrecked on a desert island and were able to rescue one book and one only, what book would you choose." Personally I should plump for Wisden's Cricketer's Almanack, but that is by the way. Will you try and visualise for a moment a world without books and without newspapers? I admit that in a world without newspapers there would probably be no wars, but at the moment we are in the middle of a pretty considerable war, which brings me to the object of my talk.

A year ago there was a doubt in the minds of many Madras citizens—the official estimate of their number I fancy is about 500,000—of the ability of the armed forces in this country to resist an enemy invasion. Those doubts have now been set at rest, and instead of apprehension a comfortable feeling of security has been substituted owing to the arrival in India of vast quantities of troops and material. It is a comforting, if somewhat chastening, thought that they are here to protect, amongst other people, you and me. And so they merit our consideration. They live, for the most part, under conditions in which comfort is conspicuous by its absence, and it is for us to do what we can to render the necessarily restricted and monotonous life of the soldier less burdensome. Much has been done, and is being done, in this direction, but their great need at the moment is books. So great is the need that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has issued a special All-India appeal for literature of all kinds, and it is my privilege to bring this appeal to your notice.

What forms of recreation, do you imagine, other than reading, are open to troops stationed in distant camps, in tents or huts in Madras hot weather? In many cases it will be their first experience of an Indian summer, and if you and I, sitting in comparative comfort underneath an electric fan, feel the heat, accustomed as we are to it, what, I wonder, are the feelings of the troops, who rarely see an electric fan. And so, to help, them pass bearably a long sweltering day,

books mean much to them. Books mean even more to soldiers in hospital. Have you ever been in hospital or a nursing home? Well-meaning nurses wake you at an unearthly hour, and by about 7 o'clock in the morning you are awake, washed, fed—I almost said 'fed up'—and have about 14 hours acute boredom in front of you before you can close down for the night with the prospect of waking to the same dreary programme the next day—and so on, and so on, and so on. Books and more books will alone beguile the tedium of a spell in hospital. Have you ever thought of the monotony of the lives of the anti-aircraft men, when they are not in action—I mean; for, when in action one can scarcely call their job monotonous. But they must always be prepared to open fire at a moment's notice, and so there must always be a number of them on the spot on duty in case of a visit from an enemy aircraft. Here again books will help to ease the monotony.

SORT OF BOOKS WANTED

Now, what sort of books are wanted? British troops like crime stories, wild west stories (you know—"Dead Man's Gulch"—that sort of thing) and stories with what I believe is technically known as a "love interest," and they like them in the order which I have given you—crime—wild west—true love. Their favourite author is that lamented and prolific gentleman Mr. Edgar Wallace. But you must remember that the army of to-day contains men from all walks of life and practically any book on any subject will find a reader. Some months ago I had the privilege of entertaining in my house 7 or 8 men from one of His Majesty's ships. There have since been others, but I remember this occasion because one of them having noticed that I am apt to smoke a pipe, and having ascertained that I am a bachelor, said to me on leaving "Well, good-bye, sir, when I come back I'll bring you a calabash from Ceylon and a wife from Burma." Neither promise, I may say, has so far been implemented; but I live in hopes. There was in the same party a little man with an enormous moustache who played the trombone in the ship's band—he reminded me irresistibly of Bateman's drawing of the "One-note Man." When they were choosing books to take away with them (my own regrettable tastes rather run to blood or biographies) this little man, who might have been expected to choose the most thrilling of thrillers—or the most sugary of love stories—chose John Buchan's "Memory Hold the Door"—a grand book, no doubt, but on the heavy side and not by any means in Lord Tweedsmuir's lighter or more adventurous vein. And so, tastes vary and practically any kind of book is welcome.

But don't take me *too* literally. In response to a previous appeal for literature for the troops the following have been known to reach the Joint War Charities Depot—District Board Journals, Government Gazettes, Tales for the tots, old telephone directories, Whiteaway Laidlaw's catalogues, cinema Programmes and Mrs. Beeton's Cookery book. I have never been able to get a really hearty laugh out of any Government publication, and I doubt if the troops would. Nor I think, would they get a kick out of knowing the telephone numbers of even the most eminent citizens of Madras. And as for Mrs. Beeton, her recipes usually start "take 2 pints of cream and 24 eggs", and are meant for more spacious times, and are out of place in these days of austerity, especially amongst soldiers whose meals as often as not come out of a tin. None of these inappropriate publications ever reached the troops because they were consigned to outer darkness by the Joint War Charities Depot, who, however, have quite enough to do without having to separate the grain from the chaff. Besides, waste paper is valuable and there are appropriate channels for collecting it, but what we want are books which can be read—read over and over again, the one criterion of their usefulness being that they should pass an idle hour.

TAMIL AND TELUGU BOOKS

There is an even greater need for Tamil and Telugu books. The Joint War Charities Depot have bought and despatched vast quantities; but more—many more—are wanted. To the Madrasi soldier overseas, to the Madrasi soldier in other Indian provinces where his language is not spoken, books printed in his mother tongue are tremendously welcome and greatly appreciated. Detective stories are most favoured by Indian troops, with love stories

GLAD IF YOU'D COME TO TEA

Every month between 200 and 300 British and American soldiers and airmen in New Delhi receive invitations to tea with civilian families.

This is part of the Allied Forces Entertainments Committee's big effort to make New Delhi a home-from-home for Service personnel.

These informal tea parties provide a pleasant way of interchanging views, and both hosts and guests thoroughly enjoy them.

Picnics arranged by civilian families are another much appreciated pleasure, and in a number of cases tennis courts have been placed at the disposal of service-men on certain days of the week.

Among the Delhi residents who regularly extend this form of hospitality to soldiers and airmen is Lady Wavell—who is patron of the Allied Forces Entertainments Committee, and takes a keen interest in all its activities.

MEN OF THE ROYAL INDIAN A.S.C. VISIT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENTS PARK, LONDON.—The Indians admiring the father lion and one of a litter of lion cubs born at the zoo.

a poor second. Illustrated papers of all kinds are much in demand. What becomes of these illustrated papers when they are done with? Surely they can't all find their way into the waiting rooms of the medical and dental professions. We all of us have in our book cases books which we are not likely to read again. The modern thriller, for instance. As a contribution to the World's literature its value is ephemeral, but as an antidote to boredom it is almost worth the fantastic price which one is called upon to pay for it these days. And one book does more than beguile the leisure moments of one soldier—it is passed on from man to man and from unit to unit. Yesterday the "Brain's trust" were striving to arrive at a definition of a well-read man. Is he one who has read a vast number of books, or is he one who is well informed on all matters of public interest? Whatever the correct definition there is to-day something more enviable than to be a well-read man. It is to be the late owner of a well-thumbed book —well-thumbed because it is being circulated amongst the troops whose needs (with acknowledgments to Sir Phillip Sydney) are greater than ours. What a lot of pleasure one could give to the troops if each one of us who has a book case were to extract from it half a dozen books, and send them to the army. If we are reluctant to part with them let us think of all those books—usually our favourites —which have been lent to friends who have omitted the formality of returning them. Confession is good for the soul. A short time ago I sent some books to the Joint War Charities Depot including one which had been lent to me and which bore the name and was the property of a lady who, as luck would have it, had the job of sorting them when they arrived at the Depot. She told me, more in sorrow than in anger, that she thought it generous of me to give away her property, but I still maintain that I had the right idea. Quite a number of people buy illustrated papers from clubs after they have been in circulation for a reasonable time. Pass them on. Many of us buy Penguin editions when we travel by train—pass them on. They are particularly welcome as they are of handy size and can be put in the pocket. In parenthesis, how unutterably boring a train journey from, say, Madras to Calcutta would be with nothing to read. Think, then, of soldiers in equally boring circumstances, with nothing to read, and do what you can for them. Confine yourselves, as far as possible, to light literature both as regards subject-matter and weight. If you have time, and you, ladies, in particular, put a cloth cover on the books, or in the case of Penguins make a new back hinge. Remember that the books will have heavy and continuous handling and it is tiresome for the reader, just as the villain is about to meet with his just deserts, to find that the next three or four pages are missing, so if there is anything you can do to strengthen the cover and give the book longer life, do it. Will you send all the books and illustrated papers you can spare to the Honorary Secretary, Joint War Charities Depot, the Banqueting Hall, Government House, Madras, and do please believe me when I tell you that the need is most urgent.

—A recent talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

India's First D.F.C.

K. K. Majumdar's Exploits in Burma

THE first Distinguished Flying Cross to be awarded to an officer of the Indian Air Force has been won by Acting Wing Commander K. K. Majumdar for his courage and example while commanding No. 1 Squadron, Indian Air Force, in the Burma campaign.

The official citation says: "This officer commanded the squadron during its activities in Burma. Throughout, his leadership and fighting spirit were of a high standard. He led two unescorted attacks on enemy airfields in Thailand and attacks in support of the Army in Tennasserim. He also completed valuable reconnaissance during the retirement from Rangoon to the Prome positions."

The Distinguished Flying Corps was instituted in 1918 and is awarded to commissioned and warrant officers for exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy.

Wing Commander Majumdar's squadron, although not equipped with modern aircraft, effectively bombed and machine-gunned enemy aerodromes, troop concentrations and supplies, besides carrying out important reconnaissance flights. The unit was twice congratulated by General Wavell for the role they played in air operations.

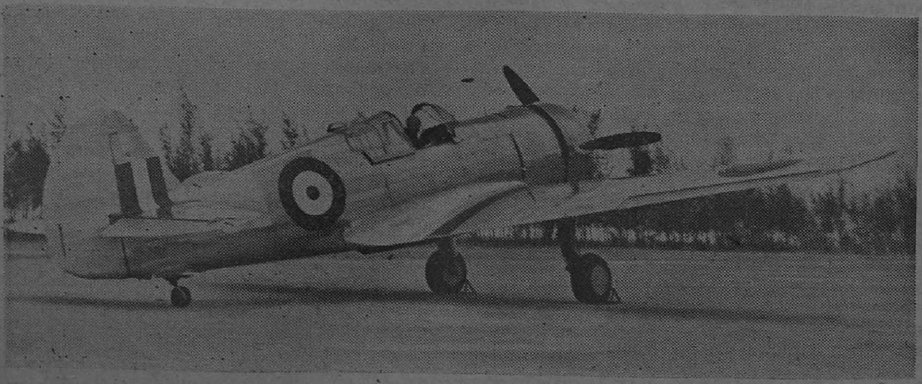
An airman who served under Wing Commander Majumdar says: "His leadership inspired every member of the squadron. On the first day of our arrival in Burma we were welcomed by a shower of bombs. The challenge was accepted. The very same afternoon Wing Commander Majumdar returned the attack, destroying hangars and the wireless station at the enemy's base aerodrome.

"One afternoon we received warning that the Japanese were approaching. We were ordered to evacuate our airfield. Wing Commander Majumdar refused to be stampeded. Although we were in danger of capture, he called us together and calmly told us to collect our equipment before leaving. When we arrived in Calcutta we found we were more fortunate than most squadrons in getting away with our full equipment."

Wing Commander Majumdar—'Jumbo' to his friends and colleagues—has had a highly successful career since he took up flying ten years ago. He was the first Indian commissioned officer to be promoted to the acting rank of Wing Commander in the Indian Air Force.

He was educated at St. Paul's School, Darjeeling. In 1932 he went to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. He obtained his wings and was commissioned in 1933. He took over command of No. 1 Squadron in June 1941 and led this squadron in Burma from January to April 1942.

On his return to India he became Liaison Officer between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Air Force. Recently he was promoted Acting Wing Commander and joined the Staff of Air Headquarters.



INDIA'S FIRST FIGHTER PLANE.—A further type of aircraft produced by the Hindustan Aircraft Factory is the Curtiss Hawk, *a modern high performance fighter of American design, equipped with a retractable undercarriage. It is a single-seater, single-engined, low-wing monoplane, and is one of the modern types which Indian Air Force pilots will fly when they have completed their training.*

His's not to reason why,
His's but to die or fly.

King George's Fund for Sailors thanks Madras

Admiral Chairman,
King George's Fund for Sailors,
Trinity House, London, E.C. 3,

To
His Excellency Captain
The Honourable Sir Arthur Hope,
G.C.I.E., M.C.,
Government House,
Madras, India.

Your Excellency, 22nd February 1943.

A cheque for £ 100 has been received through the Imperial Bank of India, from the Joint War Charities Committee, Madras, and the General Council have asked me to convey to Your Excellency and all concerned an expression of their sincere thanks.

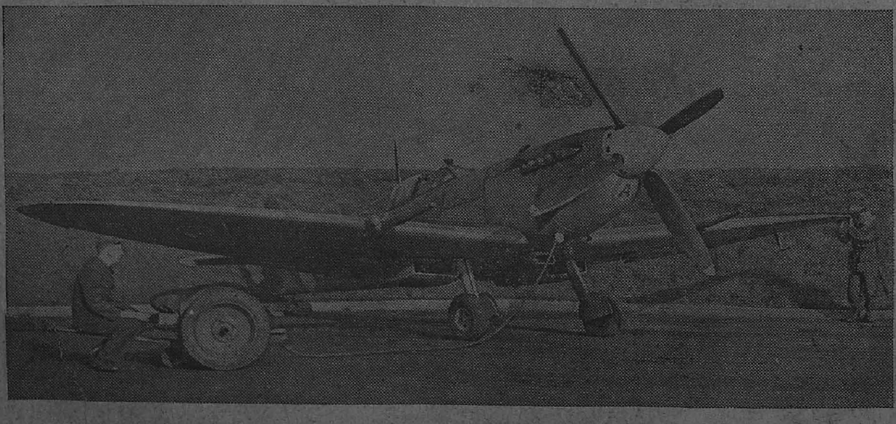
The Council are very appreciative of the continued interest taken in the cause of our seamen and their dependents by the Joint War Charities Committee, and they are extremely grateful for this latest gift, which is most encouraging to them in the work which they are trying to do.

The War Fund reached the first million in December last, and H.M. The King, Patron, was informed, and expressed his satisfaction by giving a further donation.

From the money collected more than £ 18,300 has been used for the equipment and maintenance of Hostels and Clubs for Indian Seamen at Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Hull and Swansea, and for comforts for Indian Seamen, and when making grants their needs are always kept in the foreground.

The calls upon the Fund will be very great, and we are looking forward to a continuance of the generous help which has come to us from overseas.

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
(Sd.) Sir Aubrey Smith,
K.B.E., C.B., M.V.O.,
Admiral Chairman.



THE ROYAL AIR FORCE'S NEWEST SPITFIRE.—This Spitfire has a four-bladed propeller and two radiators under the wings. The wings differ slightly in their tapering from other versions.

The Food Situation

By R. GALLETTI, I.C.S.

THE people of this province are naturally interested most in their own affairs. But I would like to begin by altering the perspective. There are few parts of the world in which the food situation is easier than in Madras. Europe, it has been said, is suffering a year of organized hunger. In Poland, Greece and Belgium thousands are dying of starvation. Russians are carrying on their magnificent fight on iron rations. In China a vast area is stricken with an appalling famine. The English have cheerfully accepted a diet reduced both in scale and in quality. The United States, the greatest agricultural country in the world, has diverted so much farm labour to the army and to other production that farmers are working under great difficulties, and it has allocated so much of its food to its allies and its armed forces that civilians suffer from rising prices and increasing shortages. The Middle East and Iran get inadequate supplies. But in India as a whole there is almost a full peace-time supply of food. Imported luxuries are not to be had; but the shortage of grains, pulses and oils is, generally speaking, less than elsewhere. The needs of the troops, Indian, British and American, press in some areas on the sources of supply for certain vegetables, potatoes, milk and meat; but this makes little difference to ninety or ninety-five in every hundred Indians.

Considering that this country has been engaged in the greatest war in history for three and a half years the situation is astonishingly easy. There would have been a different story if we had suffered invasion or blockade; and in comparison with the price the other United Nations are paying for the preservation of liberty and decency in the world, the sacrifice made by us in this country is microscopic.

PROBLEM OF QUANTITY

But it is a fact that the part of the population that can least help itself is suffering from an inability to procure food in adequate quantity. There is no glossing over this fact, and His Excellency the Governor and his Advisers have told us that no other problem takes precedence over this in their minds. In recent public speeches they have also told us that they feel confident of solving the problem. They have taken measures to stimulate production in the various ways that are open to a Government—by expanding irrigation, throwing open more land to cultivation, granting loans on the most favourable terms, providing special supplies of seed and manure. They have taken measures to supply deficit areas from surplus areas within and without the province. They have taken measures to control prices by regulating movements and adjusting supply to demand.

Nevertheless prices of food are two or three times what they were in 1939 while wages have risen less than half as much. The poor, who never had more than a bare sufficiency of food, cannot buy with their wages as much as they used to do. What are the reasons and what can you do to help?

First, there is the action of the enemy. He has taken Indo-China, Siam and Burma, the great rice-exporting countries. Till he is driven out and the Bay of Bengal and all its shores are restored to the camp of the United Nations your own people will suffer. It is the imperative duty of every Indian to strengthen the country's armed forces, to stimulate recruitment and to contribute his money in gifts and loans to the Government for the production of weapons of war.

HELP TO WIN THE WAR

Secondly, there is the action of the United Nations. To win the war, and to win it quickly, every resource must be turned towards the fighting front. Shipping space for civilian supplies, factories for the production of civilian supplies, railway waggons for transport of civilian supplies must be reduced and reduced. You have no option but to welcome this, if you do not wish to suffer the fate of the Poles or the Rumanians or the Philipinos. You can help further by deliberately reducing your own standard of living and demanding less in the market. Let industrialists and merchants invest and work for the war effort—meaning your liberty—rather than for your consumption—meaning only your comfort. But let farmers remember that the food they produce is also part of the war effort, and spare no pains to get the highest yield in the largest possible acreage.

Thirdly, there is the action of the Government of India. They have to ensure the supplies not only of the great new Indian Army but also of the United Nations forces in the country. The British and the Americans are paying for what they receive. But they cannot send goods while shipping is needed for tanks and aeroplanes and troops. The Government of India have to buy the goods. So there are fewer goods for you and more money in the hands of factory owners, farmers and labourers both in factories and in villages. You who receive the money can either spend it on yourselves or return it to the Government to be spent on the war effort. If you do the first, you drive up prices. If you do the second, you bring the amount of money spent on civilian consumption back to its previous relation with the amount of goods available for you. If you drive up prices, you tax not only yourselves but the poor; you will not get any more to eat and to wear, but you will pay out in money more than you would if income-tax, land revenue, sales tax and

customs duties were all doubled. If you give the money to the war effort, it pays for men and munitions; the prices of food and clothing remain normal, and you pay less on the whole. This elementary truth they have realized in England, but you have not yet realized it here. In one week London alone gave and lent 200 crores, in addition to the enormous taxes the English are paying. In three and a half years this whole province has given and lent less than 10 crores and paid very little more in extra taxation. You have valued your lives and liberties at eight annas a head a year. You cannot have liberty at so cheap a rate. If you try, you will not have even comfort; you will not have even cheap food. If you give and lend to Government, instead of spending in ordinary trade and in shops, twenty or thirty crores in the next year, you will be astonished how prices will come down. If prices fall by even two annas in the rupee, the people of the province will save on their ordinary expenditure more than twenty crores, and the poor will be able to buy their food. The food situation depends, oddly enough, not on what is done with the food, but on what is done with the money.

BUY AND SELL SENSIBLY

Fourthly, there is the action of the sellers and buyers of food. When prices are going up, both merchants and consumers try to buy quickly and to buy more than usual, so as to protect themselves from the further rise in prices. If merchants later sell at the higher prices, they are accused of profiteering; and if consumers buy much more than usual, they become hoarders. If you all think of yourselves alone, the result of each man looking after himself is simply profiteering and hoarding. You bring disaster on yourselves by increasing the scarcity of goods in the market and making your expectation of rising prices come true. Resist your instincts. Face the future calmly. Buy as usual. Sell as usual. If you do so, the authorities can ensure that supplies come into the market at reasonable prices. If you all buy eagerly, demand runs far ahead of supply; the market is depleted, and the next time you buy you will pay through the nose.

The alternative if you do not act sensibly and in the interest of the common good is more and more control by the authorities, sterner and sterner compulsion.

Fifthly, there is the action taken and to be taken by the cultivator, the producer of food. Last year the cultivators of this province brought under cultivation and irrigation many thousands of additional acres. They worked hard. Yet production was less than normal. The truth is that in this country, as in every other country, the weather has more control over agriculture than any human decision. Last year's monsoons were unfavourable. Over a large tract of the Ceded districts crops failed altogther. Elsewhere crops were far below average. But the cultivator is not discouraged, and since he is stimulated not only by the concessions, loans and facilities liberally given by the Government, but also by prices for his produce higher than he has enjoyed for twenty years, we can be confident that he will spare no effort to fill the granaries for himself and the rest of us. But the prices offered now for cotton and groundnut are also higher than ever. Cotton and groundnut, moreover, are needed and can be grown successfully on much land not very suitable for food crops. It would be wrong to reduce too greatly the area devoted to cotton or to groundnut. But it is the duty at the present time of the ryot and of his advisers to think carefully how much land and labour should be devoted to each crop and to remember that the hardships arising from shortage of cloth and oil are far more bearable than those arising from lack of food. It is also necessary for them to remember that high profits from the production of non-food crops may easily be swallowed up in paying high prices for food. What good will it do a man if he grows eighty rupees worth of cotton instead of forty rupees worth of grain, if he then has to pay eighty rupees for the grain that he might have grown himself? In telling the ryot to grow more food, we advise him for his own as well as for the common good. And if the monsoon is timely and abundant we feel confident the ryot will do his best.

MOTIVE POWER IS THE PEOPLE

Lastly, there is the action taken and to be taken by our own Provincial Government. Many people speak and write as though this was the most important thing of all. But that is like pretending that the stationmaster or the guard of a train has more to do with how the train runs than the locomotive, the engine driver, and planner of the time-tables all put together, not to mention the passengers and goods but for whom there would be no railway built at all. The Government is at the controls, subject to the higher decisions of the United Nations and the Government of India. But the motive power is in the people, and the energy with which the people work depends mainly on the inspiration of the leaders in each village and each taluk. Too many of you look for leadership into the far distance. Your leadership should be close at hand—and in your own hands, if you have courage and enterprise. If you are captain of a football team you do not wait for word to come from Delhi or Bombay before making your decisions. Yet up and down this province mature men of good education, wealth, intelligence and character are content to wait for orders instead of thinking and acting for themselves and the common cause. In that way Italy was made ready for Fascism and Germany for Nazism. Every one of you who knows a little more and can see a little farther than his neighbours should be leading them. Some of you have taken the opportunity offered by the organization of the National War Front to get to work. Why are the rest of you doing less than you can?

—*A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.*

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

1st Apr.—Lord Bruntisfield, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, said in the House of Lords that the estimated tonnage of German merchant shipping sunk, captured or damaged since the beginning of the present war to the end of February 1943, was 3,365,000 gross tons and of the Italians 4,027,000 gross tons.

Flying Fortresses bombed shipping and shipyards at Rotterdam.

It was disclosed that as a result of the intense bombing of Berlin by the Royal Air Force, political tension in the Reich was very great.

3rd Apr.—Submarine bases at Lorient and St. Nazaire were attacked. Mines were also laid in enemy waters. A German E-boat was sunk off the French coast.

It was revealed that Hitler's Chancellery was badly damaged in the last Royal Air Force raid on Berlin.

4th Apr.—The Royal Air Force made a heavy and concentrated attack on Essen. The great Krupps armament works were again hit. American heavy bombers attacked Renault factories at Billancourt on the outskirts of Paris.

Enemy airfield at Abbeville, an enemy trawler off the coast of Holland, the docks at Brest and railway targets in northern France and Belgium were bombed.

Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, said that offensive preparations were being made and Axis forces would be sandwiched between the British and Americans in the West and Russians in the East.

Mr. Anthony Eden arrived in England from United States.

5th Apr.—The Royal Air Force in great strength attacked the naval base and shipbuilding yards of Kiel. Large fires were started in the target area. This was the 71st raid on Kiel. Objectives in northern France and the Low Countries were also attacked. The airfield at Caen, railway targets at Saint Brieuc, shipyards at Rotterdam, railway yards at Abbeville and the docks at Dieppe were other objects of attack. Industrial targets near Antwerp were also bombed.

In an action off Dunkirk with four enemy armed trawlers, one was set on fire and sunk.

6th Apr.—Actions, rumours and warnings directed or indirectly connected with an Allied attack on the Continent were received from 7 capitals during the last 24 hours.

American aircraft completely destroyed the Erla aircraft engine works near Antwerp. The Royal Air Force attacked docks and shipping at Brest.

Two out of four German E-boats were damaged near Le Touquet. British naval units bombed three ships off Dieppe.

7th Apr.—Two of the eight Nazi aircraft which attacked south coast of England were destroyed.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

1st Apr.—Mr. Anthony Eden, in a farewell message to Mr. Cordell Hull, said: "We think alike on problems that face us."

At a press conference, Mr. Eden said: "The war would be long and tough."

Speaking on the total disarmament of the Axis powers, Mr. Eden said: "I have no faith in the promises of their statesmen, nor in the smooth assurances of their apologists. There is only one security for mankind in respect of all of them: to ensure that they are totally disarmed and in no position ever to try their strength again."

Mr. Morgenthau, United States Secretary of State of Treasury, confirmed that plans had been submitted to the United Nations by the United States looking toward international stabilization of currency in the post-war period.

2nd Apr.—It was announced that the Soviet had accepted the invitation to the Post-War Food Conference to be held in the United States.

Interpreting Mr. Eden's mission to the United States, the bulletin issued by the Foreign Policy Association said: "Britain

contemplates the future of the colonies as also India within the Commonwealth rather than in a complete severance of the connection with the British Crown."

3rd Apr.—Lord Halifax said: "The end of the war may come more suddenly than some of us thought six months ago. Germany is under a great stress in her manpower."

4th Apr.—Mr. Adolf A. Berle, United States Assistant Secretary of State, said: "A strong and victorious Russia is necessary to the United States. The United Nations, grouped around the United States, Britain, Russia and China, will be invincible in war."

5th Apr.—Speaking at a mass meeting at Los Angeles, Madame Chiang Kai-shek said "that no greater tribute could be paid to the sorely-tried people of China than that in all their suffering, never did they complain against their leaders."

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, United States Secretary of Treasury, in a plan submitted to a group of Senators, outlined the tentative proposal of the United States to participate with a contribution of 5,000 million dollars to a post-war international Currency Stabilization Fund. It was disclosed that the Keynes plans for a new world currency had been received with enthusiasm in United States.

6th Apr.—A tentative Anglo-American agreement regarding the future Far Eastern policy was reported to have been reached in the course of Mr. Eden's conversations in the United States.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

1st Apr.—The Royal Air Force carried out a damaging attack on oil installations and other objectives at Bhamo, a Japanese base on the Irrawaddy. An attack was also made on Mandalay.

There was an air combat between 10 Royal Air Force fighters and 12 Japanese fighters over the Buthedaung area. One enemy aircraft was destroyed. Bombers of the United States airforce attacked enemy railroad facilities at Maymyo.

2nd Apr.—Japanese bombers attacked Feni in south-east Bengal. Five of the raiders were destroyed and several damaged.

A few enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Bawli Bazaar. A Japanese plane was destroyed in the Magwe airfield. Chauk and Myingyan were also bombed.

3rd Apr.—The Royal Air Force attacked the railway junction at Kanblau. A Japanese-occupied village on the Mayu Peninsula was also attacked. Enemy aircraft attacked Maungdaw, causing very slight damage.

4th Apr.—The United States War Department revealed that a United States bomber completed a 11,748 miles flight from America to India in 67 hours and 35 minutes, establishing a new record for delivery of aircraft over this distance.

General Clayton Bissel said that the American force in India and China carried out 18 per cent more missions and dropped 80 per cent greater weight of bombs than during the preceding month.

According to the *News Chronicle* special correspondent, the Japanese were strengthening their hold on Burma and it was improbable that the Allies could open an effective road into China before the beginning of 1944.

The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in Yenangyaung, an important oil town on the Irrawaddy.

5th Apr.—The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in Occupied Burma. Bombs were dropped on Japanese positions at Htizwe. Pinlebu and Minbya were also attacked. United States aircraft bombed the Thilawa oil refinery south of Rangoon.

Enemy aircraft attacked an airfield south of Chittagong.

Members of the Chinese Educational and Cultural Mission visited Madras.

6th Apr.—The Royal Air Force intercepted a force of more than 50 Japanese bombers and fighters which attempted to attack south-east Bengal. At least 11 of the enemy aircraft were damaged. The Japanese airbase at Meiktila in Central Burma was bombed.

United States airforce attacked the railroad yards at Pyawbwe and Prome.

7th Apr.—Allied troops withdrew from Donbaik to positions in Kyaukpandu area. Enemy fighters attacked an airfield in south-east Bengal. Japanese airfield at Pakkokku was bombed.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

1st Apr.—Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary of War, announced that the bulk of Rommel's army had been withdrawn.

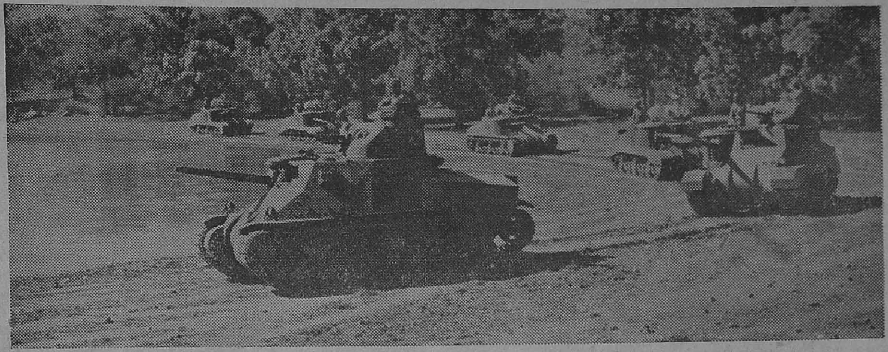
It was revealed that fishing boats, tugs and small craft were being assembled in Italian harbours to be used for the Axis "Dunkirk" to evacuate troops from Tunisia to Sicily.

According to the Morocco Radio, General Montgomery's vanguards were 13 miles north of Gabes.

An enemy airfield in Sardinia was bombed.

2nd Apr.—The Germans counter-attacked against the Americans on the Gafsa-Gabes road. The French troops occupied Kebili, south of Shott Djerid. Bizerta was bombed.

3rd Apr.—General Montgomery regrouped his forces for a new advance northwards. The French and American forces continued eastwards in Central Tunisia. Six enemy fighters were destroyed.



TECHNICIANS IN THE MAKING.—The mechanisation of the Indian Army opens a new field, and recruits chosen for armoured units receive extensive instructions covering every phase of this technical branch of the Army. The men must know what to do in any emergency, and be able to maintain their equipment in perfect order under all conditions. They are as keen as mustard, and eager to learn all they can so that they can take their part in the defeat of the Axis. Photo shows recruits on manœuvres.

4th Apr.—Allied troops captured Cape Serrat. The French troops advanced north of Sedjenane.

It was revealed that the British Navy was standing ready in the Mediterranean to prevent an Axis "Dunkirk."

General Giraud's spokesman, broadcasting to the Italian people over the Algiers Radio, said: "Another few months and the day of reckoning will come. Thousands of bombers are preparing for raids against Italy. Your industries, transports, everything that gives bread to the Italian people will be destroyed."

Messina was attacked by heavy bombers and damage was inflicted.

5th Apr.—The Greek submarine *Papanicolis* sank two small enemy supply ships in the Mediterranean.

American Flying Fortresses raided Naples, the heaviest raid of the war on that port. Huge fires were started. Fourteen ships, two of them liners, were hit in Naples harbour. Syracuse and Carloforte were also bombed.

The British First Army, which included French troops, advanced beyond Cape Serrat.

General Giraud who paid a visit to Gabes said: "The Axis will have to do 'Dunkirk' from Africa. There will be lots of white caps floating in the Mediterranean soon."

6th Apr.—The United States forces continued to advance south-east of El Guettar. The British troops pushed forward methodically along the Sejenane-Matem road. An enemy convoy in the Sicilian straits was attacked. A destroyer was blown up and other vessels received direct hits. Forty-eight enemy aircraft were destroyed.

The Algiers Radio issued this warning: "German soldiers, you have to choose between death and captivity. There is no other way out from here."

Industrial installations at Porto Empedocle, Sicily, were attacked and damaged.

7th Apr.—Mr. Churchill announced in the Commons that a new victory had been gained by the Desert Army. General Montgomery's forces attacked Akarit, north of Gabes and blasted a hole in the defensive line. Over 6,000 prisoners were taken and Rommel was again in full retreat.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

1st Apr.—The Russians held firmly the bridge-heads on the right bank of the Donetz from Byelgorod and Ghuguyew. The Red Army captured Anastasyevskaya.

2nd Apr.—The Moscow Radio stated that 938 German aircraft were destroyed on the Russian front during the four weeks ended March 27. The Russians closed in on the German troops in the Kuban area of the Northern Caucasus.

3rd Apr.—The Red Army pressed the Germans hard in the Taman bridge-head and fighting developed along the lower Kuban river. The Russians reached the eastern gate of Novorossisk. Two enemy transports were sunk in the Barents Sea.

According to the Soviet Information Bureau, the Red Army advanced from 600 to 700 kilometres in 4 months and 20 days, liberating 480,000 square kilometres of territory.

4th Apr.—There was fierce fighting south of Izyum. The Germans massed their forces in Southern Russia for a large-scale offensive. The Russian troops captured Prikubanskya.

5th Apr.—The Russians captured Bakansk, a town on the main Kuban railway.

The *Pravda* reported that German aircraft twice set out on mass raids on Rostov a few days ago.

6th Apr.—According to Reuter's special correspondent, there was a vast movement of men and materials along the 1,200-mile Soviet front as the Russian and German forces prepared for the next stage of conflict. The Red Army advanced in the Kuban. There was fierce fighting south of Izyum where the Germans suffered heavy losses.

7th Apr.—South of Izyum, Soviet units repelled German attacks. The Moscow Radio called for "death for death and blood for blood" to avenge the victims of German atrocities.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

3rd Apr.—According to the German Radio, Dr. Clodius, the German economic "ambassador" to Turkey, signed a protocol with the Turkish Government, guaranteeing exchange of goods between Germany and Turkey.

5th Apr.—Military leaders of three United Nations and Spain met in Spanish Morocco. General Franco summoned his Cabinet to meet.

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SHIPPING

1st Apr.—United States aircraft sank two Axis submarines within sight of the Columbian Coast.

4th Apr.—The British submarine *Tigris* was loss.

Aircraft carrier *Cabot* was launched at Camden, New Jersey.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

3rd Apr.—M. Laval informed the Vichy Cabinet that a quarter-million French workers had left for Germany in the first three months of this year.

4th Apr.—The Algiers Radio broadcast a warning to the French people that the Germans may try to fake "Commando Raids" on the French coast to discover Allied sympathisers.

According to a message received at the Fighting French Headquarters in London, the Germans had begun to conscript French women for work in Germany.

5th Apr.—The Berlin Radio stated that the German Government had decided to transfer the former French Prime Ministers, M. Daladier. M. Leon Blum and General Gamelin, to Germany "to forestall a planned Anglo-American group to free these men".

Marshal Petain, in a broadcast over the French Radio, blamed French leaders abroad for France's ordeal and condemned the American raid on the outskirts of Paris and called on young Frenchmen to accept German demands for labour.

THE FAR EAST

1st Apr.—The Chinese penetrated the Japanese defences round the Hunan City of Hwajung.

Dr. Wellington Koo (who was at Washington) said that there was a danger of a new major Japanese offensive in China.

2nd Apr.—Thirty to forty Japanese fighters were engaged by the United States planes in a big battle north-west of Guadalcanar in the Solomon Islands. Sixteen enemy planes were shot down.

Chinese "Puppet" troops guarding the Tsinpu railway (part of the Tientsin-Pukow line), mutined and killed scores of Japanese officers and men and then joined the Chinese forces.

3rd Apr.—There was severe fighting in the area west of Kingmen, north-east of Ichang.

General Stilwell revealed that United States Air Force in China now had air bases within bombing range of Tokyo in the Kiangzo Province.

4th Apr.—In a surprise attack, Allied heavy bombers bombed a concentration of Japanese warships off Kavieng in New Ireland. Three ships were sunk and one damaged.

American submarines sank one Japanese destroyer, one large transport and two medium freighters in the Pacific.

United States planes carried out 9 attacks on Japanese positions in the Aleutians. Three Japanese aircraft were shot down in the Solomons.

The Japanese raided Chungking. Japanese barracks at Changtaikwan were set on fire by artillery bombardment.

5th Apr.—General Tojo announced that the defences of the northern border had been still further strengthened by virtue of Manchukuo's all-out co-operation with Japan. (The Manchukuo northern border separates that State from the U.S.S.R.).

A Japanese column which penetrated to a point north of Talo on the Yunnan border was surrounded by the Chinese.

Three more Japanese ships and possibly four were hit by Allied bombers at Kavieng, thus dispersing the Japanese naval concentration at Kavieng.

6th Apr.—Allied warplanes bombed 10 Japanese strongholds in south-west Pacific.

In Northern Hupeh Province, the Chinese attacked Japanese positions near Suichsien.

7th Apr.—Mr. Frederick Jones, New Zealand Defence Minister, said that while in North Africa the situation was very promising, it could not be said that everything was safe in the Pacific or that the Allies had got the better of the Japanese there.

These Villagers are

Lucky to be Alive!

Villagers living in Eastern India had a narrow escape from death when they unwisely handled a mine found drifting in the sea. Only a chance defect in the mechanism prevented a terrific explosion.

Fishermen noticed the mine while out in their boat. Instead of informing the authorities, they towed the mine 15 miles to shore. It was then hauled up on the beach near a village, where a throng gathered round, and the barnacles with which it was encrusted were scrapped off.

The fishermen and villagers were lucky to escape with their lives. Another mine recently washed up elsewhere on India's coast left a crater 40 feet across and 20 feet deep when it was exploded under proper supervision. Fortunately in this case no attempt at handling had been made before the experts arrived.

A mine is one of the deadliest contrivances known in modern warfare. Many a vessel has gone to the bottom of the sea, riven asunder, after striking one. The blast has been known to raze a whole street.

Washed up on a beach, an ordinary mine, if tampered with, will explode with force sufficient to kill human beings, and shatter dwellings, within a distance of 500 feet.

Persons who notice any object resembling a mine in the sea, or on the shore, must on no account go near it. They must treat it as the killer it is, and report its presence to the nearest civil or military authorities, who will send an officer to render the mechanism harmless.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Gourds and Pumpkins

Bitter-Gourd

Momordica charantia, Lat.; Fam. *Cucurbitaceae*; *pavakai*, Tam.; *Kakarakaya*, Tel.; *pavakka*, Mal.

Description.—A climber, climbing by means of tendrils; flowers golden yellow and unisexual, only the female ones developing into fruits. There are different varieties, which produce different kinds of warty fruits—a green ovoid fruit about 4–6″ long, a creamy white one 6–8″ long, and a rounded one 1–1½″ long. The fruit is orange-yellow when ripe and contains flat seeds with bright red fleshy covering.

Propagation.—Seeds for sowing can be got ready from the ripe fruit. The red pulpy covering is washed off and seeds are smeared with ash and allowed to dry.

Cultivation.—Seeds are planted in well-prepared raised beds, so that the plants will be about 2 feet apart; the vines are allowed to climb on strong, dry branching twigs, on fences or over a trellis. Well-rotted cattle manure could be added to the soil every now and then, and the plants must be watered daily. The plants bear fruit in about three months, and continue to do so for a short time.

Uses.—The fruit has a slightly bitter taste; but is relished in curries and pickles. The fruits may also be sliced, steamed and dried in the sun, and thus stored.

Analysis.—About 95 per cent water; small quantities of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, fibre and minerals; traces of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and iron; vitamins A, B and C.

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